

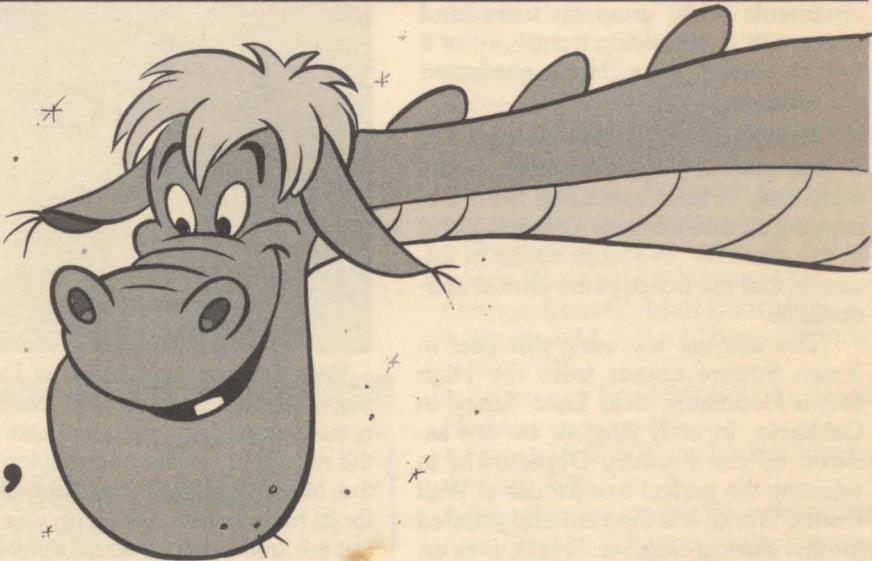
eyes
and
ears of

Walt Disney World®

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PREPARED BY AND FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF WALT DISNEY WORLD

DECEMBER 9, 1977



"PETE'S DRAGON" PREMIERES THIS SUNDAY

Disney cast members and their immediate families will have the opportunity to preview *Pete's Dragon* beginning next week, one of the Studio's most ambitious film projects since *Mary Poppins*. Scheduled for general release across the nation this Christmas, it will be premiered here with complimentary admission at Cast Activities' Family Film Festival!



The motion picture's show times are:

Sunday, December 11 - Disney Story, 8 pm
Monday, December 12 - Disney Story, 8 pm
Tuesday, December 13 - Disney Story, 8 pm
Wednesday, December 14 - Disney Story, 8 pm
Thursday, December 15 - Disney Story, 8 pm
Friday, December 16 - Disney Story, 8 pm
Saturday, December 17 - Continental Room, 1 pm, 4 pm, 7 pm
Monday, December 19 - Continental Room, 1 pm (Children's Matinee), 6 pm, 8:30 pm
Tuesday, December 20 - Continental Room, 1 pm (Children's Matinee), 6 pm, 8:30 pm
Friday, December 23 - Continental Room, 6 pm, 8:30 pm

To attend, you must have a **ticket** for each member of your family. Tickets are now available through Cast Activities in The Center and all Cast Activities Satellite Offices across our property. As always, they are **free** to Disney cast members and their immediate families.

Since every showing is expected to be a sell out, please get your tickets as soon as possible. And you must present your **Disney ID** at the door for admission.

Pete's Dragon is the brightest, liveliest musical fantasy from Walt Disney Studios, combining live action and animation, since *Mary Poppins* premiered in 1964. It stars singer Helen Reddy in her first major movie role, elastic Jim Dale, perennial Mickey Rooney, Red Buttons, Shelly Winters and Sean Marshall.

Continued page 3

ORNAMENTS DON'T JUST GROW ON TREES . . . THEY'RE PLACED THERE!

For Magic Kingdom cast members, it seemed like an overnight transformation last week, as Main Street put on its holiday coat of decorations.

We visited with Hank Dains of the Decorating Department to find out if ornaments really grow on trees (and lamp posts and building fronts) . . . or if they're placed there. Hank confirmed the latter.

"The Decorating Department actually begins planning for Christmas in the early Fall," Hank explained from Decorating's office beneath Tomorrowland in the tunnels. "We work so far in advance, that the holidays are almost anticlimactic."

"The tree we are using this year in Town Square comes from the High Sierra Mountains, near Lake Tahoe in California. In early August, we are assisted by the Forestry Department in selecting the perfect tree for use at Walt Disney World. It is then cut and shipped the first week of October." Hank went on to point out that this year's Christmas Tree stands 61 feet above Main Street. In the forest, it stood near 85 feet tall, but was shortened some 24 feet for shipping across the country. It arrived at Walt Disney World in early November, and was erected behind Main Street in the MO-7 parking lot.

As the holidays approach, most of us set aside one long afternoon or evening to decorate our Christmas trees and living rooms. But not so here, Decorating set aside nearly one entire month to prepare the 61 foot tree!



Vince Boylan



Pete Teague, Supervisor of Decorating, explained that two men working out of fully-extended "cherry pickers" spent the month of November swaying above the Magic Kingdom preparing the tree for its holiday debut. First up was to thin out the limbs, drill new holes throughout the tree trunk, and plug 'em right back in! Three-hundred additional limbs taken from the 24 foot section cut-off in the forest were also shipped with the tree, and were plugged in to fully fill out the sides.

Once plugged, it was time for its first coat of paint. Over 65 gallons of flame retardant green paint were sprayed on, serving the dual purpose of keeping the tree "fresh" looking and flame resistant. Then it is "flocked" with approximately 75 pounds of styrofoam snow to bring a touch of winter to Central Florida.



Don Hazen

Four-thousand feet of electric wire bearing over 4,000 colored light bulbs were strung around and around the branches, spiralling clear to the top-most limbs, where a 3-foot star caps it off! Then its time for the ornaments. Over 2,500 gingerbread men, sparkling bulbs and the like are attached by hand to the branches. Most of these were designed by the Decorating Department and manufactured in our Facilities Shops, since turn-of-the-century ornaments for a 61 foot tree are not readily available at the local department store.

OVERNIGHT MAGIC RESULT OF PLANNING

It isn't just a wave of Tinkerbell's wand that turns the Magic Kingdom into a Christmas paradise overnight, but careful planning layed out months in advance. Pete Teague continues . . . "We know the date, this year it was the night of December 2nd, so we back-off a schedule to make sure everything is ordered and ready to go up." Everything is stockpiled and a crew of 20 Decorating personnel get set.

As soon as the last guest cleared the gate that evening last week, off they went like a cannon . . . as ladders went up on building fronts and street lamps, others dropped down from roof tops loaded with garlands and electrical wiring. A giant 25-ton crane moved up to the towering 61 foot Christmas tree, lifted it straight up, and slowly moved towards Town Square. Hours later, the tree was

Continued page 3

"PETE'S DRAGON" PREMIERES THIS SUNDAY

Continued from cover

Pete's Dragon is the story of a nine-year-old orphan whose occasional visible friend, Elliott the dragon, wreaks havoc on a New England town just after the turn of the century.

A LITTLE NEW ENGLAND IN CALIFORNIA

The story takes place in Maine just after the turn of the century, in the town of Passamaquoddy, a seaside hamlet where fishing and having a good time at the local tavern are the principle occupations.

Art Director Jack Martin Smith researched Maine of the period and set to work changing the backlot at the Studio from a western street into the Passamaquoddy town square and wharf area. He spent \$250,000 face-lifting 30 existing buildings and constructing eight more, all in the mode of the time. The interiors were then created inside the giant sound stages there.

But the film's coup was a 52-foot lighthouse built on a promontory south of Morrow Bay, California, and a duplicate constructed in sections inside a Studio sound stage. The full lighthouse is 18 feet in diameter at the base.

Ornaments Don't Just Grow On Trees

Continued from page 2

lowered into a mooring hole in the ground. The electric lights were connected, large colorful packages were placed beneath it, and the Landscaping Department finished the picture with poinsettias in full bloom surrounding the base!

After a 14-hour burst of decorating, the Magic Kingdom became a Christmas fantasyland, ready to greet our guests Saturday morning. Pete added that the holidays came early to Lake Buena Vista, as the Decorating crew erected their 45 foot tree in the Village Thanksgiving Eve.

Both Hank and Pete added that credit for the holiday look across our property belongs to many more than just Decorating. Many other departments were involved in our overnight magic, as Walt Disney World dressed up for the season.

It took \$115,000 and 50 men over three-weeks to build it overlooking the Pacific Ocean where the wind blows briskly and the view is similar to that of the eastern coastline. The lighthouse is octagonally shaped and covered with shingles to convey the naivete of the story.

The lighthouse lens is of the Fresnel type, named for the French physicist who designed it in the early 1850s. It cost an additional \$6,000 and is 4 and-a-half feet in diameter and eight feet tall. Curved bevels emanate from a central circle of glass, so maximum refraction occurs at every spot. Disney crews made the lenses and designed them to rotate on a grandfather clock weight system.

Inside the lens, an authentically duplicated three-sleeve wick which is six inches in diameter sits on a period wickstand and casts a beacon of light for ships to see from 18 to 24 miles! Location manager Dutch Horton had to get special permission from the Coast Guard in case the giant lamp had to be lit during filming, because it worked well enough to confuse passing ships.

The lighthouse sets were carefully dismantled when filming was completed, and plans have been discussed to transport them to Disneyland and Walt Disney World as future attractions.

HOLIDAY HOUSING AVAILABLE

Cast Activities has made arrangements for "short-term" housing accommodations for our Casual Temporary cast members during the Christmas holidays. If you are in, need or know of anyone requiring this service, please call Cast Activities at extension 4254.

MAIN STREET BARGAIN BASEMENT

Just a reminder regarding our Main Street Bargain Basement . . . since it is located adjacent to the Main Street Breakroom in the tunnel, no one other than Walt Disney World employees may visit it. It is company policy that only employees with a valid Disney ID are allowed in restricted area. It will be open through December 31st every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm.

BLOOD BANK THANKS YOU

The Central Florida Blood Bank extends their "thanks" and sincere appreciation to the many cast members who donated blood during their recent mini drive here. Because of your concern, the Blood Bank will have ample supplies of blood to carry them through the holiday season!

SPECIAL TWO-DAY MEAT SALE

There will be a special sale on frozen meat at the Gourmet Pantry in the Village this Saturday and Sunday only, December 10 & 11. Cast members will receive 40% off their purchases. The Gourmet Pantry is open 10 am to 10 pm.

BUYING A CHRISTMAS TREE?

If you are, then check this out . . . all Disney cast members may purchase a Christmas tree at \$1 off the marked price when they see Paul Chapman at his tree lot, located at the Fort Gatlin Shopping Center, intersection of Holden Avenue and South Orange Avenue in Orlando.

Paul tells us that all of his trees are top quality Scotch Pines and Douglas Firs, ranging from six to eight feet tall, with some slightly smaller.

To take advantage of this discount, simply bring your Disney ID with you to Paul's tree lot, between 10 am and 10 pm.

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO YOURSELF!

Reservations are now being accepted in Cast Activities for an exciting Ski Weekend at Beech Mountain, North Carolina. Featuring challenging expert runs . . . long, exhilarating intermediate slopes . . . "soft" beginner hills . . . five high-speed chair lifts . . . full snow making capabilities . . . large outdoor ice skating rink . . . a complete Village of shops and restaurants at the base, you'll find everything at Beech is a "mountain" of fun!

The cost is \$98 per person; which includes round-trip transportation, hotel accommodations based on double occupancy, two days' use of rental ski equipment, and two lift passes . . . everything you'll need for a fabulous Ski Weekend!

You'll depart Orlando on Friday evening, January 6th . . . ski two full days . . .

and return here by early Monday morning, **January 9th!**

You must make a deposit of \$60 per person at Cast Activities before **December 30th** to reserve your seat. Call them at extension 4254 for more details, and hurry . . . space is limited!

HAVE YOU MOVED LATELY?

If you have moved or changed your mailing address lately, then you need to change it in the company records also. If the address currently printed on your **paycheck** is incorrect, then all you need do is get a "Change of Address" form from your supervisor, fill it out, and turn it back into your supervisor. He or she will forward it to the **Personnel Services Department**.

Walt Disney World periodically mails publications and official documents to your home. These include W2 forms for your personal income tax purposes, **EYES & EARS Family Editions**, tickets, and many others. Your assistance in updating your records will be appreciated.

PENSION NOTICE

During the past few weeks, the Pension Office has been mailing application forms to all cast members who are eligible, but never completed the form before. Should you receive one, it is extremely important that you complete the application and return it to the Personnel Services Office (1st floor of The Center) as soon as possible.

If you want to participate in the Plan, then sign your name and return. If you do not wish to participate, then sign and date the refusal segment and return.

CAST ACTIVITIES TICKET CENTER

Cast Activities currently has tickets available for the following Central Florida events:

- **Tribute to Elvis** - Friday, December 16 - Lakeland Civic Center, 8 pm, all seats reserved, \$4, \$5, \$6
- **Johnny Mathis** - Wednesday, January 11 - Lakeland Theater, 8 pm, all seats reserved, \$7.50, \$8.50, \$9.50
- **Marshall Tucker** - Wednesday, January 11 - Lakeland Arena, 8 pm, limited advance \$7

TANGERINE BOWL TICKETS AVAILABLE

Cast Activities now has tickets available to the upcoming Tangerine Bowl, set for Friday evening, December 23. Priced at \$10 each, the seats will be sold through 5 pm on Wednesday, December 21. All of our tickets are in a block, so get your department and friends together now!

ORANGE BOWL TICKETS HERE

There are still plenty of choice seats available at Cast Activities for this annual classic, this year pitting Arkansas and Oklahoma against one another.

Tickets for this January 2nd game in Miami will be sold through 5 pm on Wednesday, December 21, so act now to get your seats reserved.



Our two Disney Ambassadors spent last week at Walt Disney World on one leg of an intensive training program, designed to prepare them for representing the many sides of our company. Walt Disney World's Vicki Jaramillo (l) and Disneyland's Raellen Lescault (r) take a break from touring the Magic Kingdom here. Raellen returned to California Wednesday for the holidays as both prepare to assume their new role the first of the new year.

WHEN'S THE BEST TIME TO VISIT THE PARK?

We know that many of you have been getting questions from your family and neighbors on when is the best time to visit the Magic Kingdom these Christmas holidays, December 17 through 31.

We checked with Marketing Division and they explained that most of the Northern tourists will not be arriving in Florida until after Christmas Day this year, so the very best (and least crowded) time of the year for our Central Florida residents to visit Walt Disney World will be the week before Christmas . . . **December 19 through 23**.

In addition to the Magic Kingdom and our regular entertainment, guests will be able to view our new **Very Merry Christmas Parade** and the popular rock group **Starbuck**. The Magic Kingdom will be open daily from **9 am to midnight** . . . with plenty of fun and excitement for all!

MECO'S "STAR WARS" HIGHLIGHTS SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE WORLD



Popular disco group **Meco** highlights the December 10th **Saturday Night at the World** in the Magic Kingdom.

Meco's "Star Wars Theme/Cantina Band" single from the "Star Wars and Other Galactic Funk" album has been one of 1977's biggest hits, enjoying a nine-week stay in Record World's top ten. Both the single and the album are

extremely close to being certified platinum.

On December 10, the Magic Kingdom operating hours will be extended until **midnight** with regular admission prices in effect.

Other special **Saturday Night at the World** features include Fantasy in the Sky Fireworks at 10 pm, the Cavalcade of Characters Parade at 9 pm, and performances throughout the Magic Kingdom by resident entertainers like Gabriel's Brass, Michael Iseberg and the Mardi Gras Sound Company.

Meco will perform three shows on the Cinderella Castle Forecourt stage at 8 pm, 10:05 pm and 11:15 pm. Included in their performances will be their new album, "Encounters of Every Kind," slated for release this month.



SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS ON PROPERTY



The Fire Prevention Department requests your cooperation in selecting and using only Walt Disney World approved fire-safe decorations during the upcoming Christmas holidays.

Our standards, as they apply to decorative materials used throughout Walt Disney World property, are as follows:

- Only **flame retardant or non-combustible** decorations may be used.
- Live Christmas trees are prohibited unless the tree is **growing** with its roots in a portable container.
- Live decorations (center pieces and table displays) must be kept **moist**. If they become dry and easily ignitable, they must be removed immediately.
- String lights or any other electrical wiring should not be placed on aluminum or metal type trees. **Flood lights or colored wheels** reflecting on the tree should be used. Remember . . . all lighting and other Christmas decorations which are electrically powered must have U.L. approval.

Please contact the **Fire Prevention Department** at extension 4698 if you have any questions regarding holiday decorations used at Walt Disney World.

SECOND CAST CHRISTMAS PARTY TONIGHT!

Our second Cast Christmas Party is tonight, and we want to remind everyone of the following:

- The Magic Kingdom will **close** to regular guests at 7 pm and re-open for the Cast Christmas Party at **8 pm**. The Party will end at midnight.
- You and every member of your party must have a **ticket** to attend. Check with your divisional office for tickets if you have not received yours.
- Both Parties are for cast members and their dependents **only**.
- Park only in the **main guest parking lot** (complimentary) and take a tram to the TTC. There will be **no entrance** available through the resorts.
- If you are working the Party and your family is attending, give your **Main Gate Pass** to your spouse to carry with the tickets for admission.
- Board a monorail or ferryboat at the TTC to the Magic Kingdom.
- At Main Entrance, show Disney ID and give tickets. Important . . . keep your party **together** as you enter the Park!
- Bring an **unwrapped** gift for "Toys for Tots" Program if you can.
- And enjoy all of the free and discounted attractions, merchandise and food items that have been publicized over the past few weeks!



CAST CHRISTMAS PARTY ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE DECEMBER 9TH

- 7 pm-Magic Kingdom closes to guests
- 8 pm-Magic Kingdom opens to Cast Christmas Party
- 8:30 pm-Special Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in Town Square featuring the Cast Choir
- 9 pm-Kids of the Kingdom at Castle Forecourt
- 10 pm-Excerpt of Very Merry Christmas Parade
- 11 pm-Kids of the Kingdom at Castle Forecourt
- Midnight-Cast Christmas Party ends
- Santa Claus will be in front of City Hall all evening



CONTINUING EDUCATION

DISNEY UNIVERSITY SCHEDULES NEW CLASSES

Beginning this January, the Disney University will be offering the following classes as part of our Continuing Education program:

Rollins College

- Principles of Marketing, 6-9 pm; begins Monday, January 30th

Valencia Community College

- Business Math, 6-9 pm; begins Monday, January 9th

- Psychology in Business & Industry, 6-9 pm; begins Tuesday, January 10th

- Principles of Accounting II, 6-9 pm; begins Wednesday, January 11th

Orange County Adult Education

- Shorthand I, 6-9 pm; begins Monday, January 9th

- Beginning Speech, 6-9 pm, begins Monday, January 9th

- French I & II, 6-9 pm; begins Tuesday, January 10th

- Assertiveness in your Personal & Business Worlds, 6-9 pm; begins Tuesday, January 10th

- Russian, 6-9 pm; begins Wednesday, January 11th

- Shorthand II, 6-9 pm; begins Wednesday, January 11th

- Advanced Speech, 6-9 pm; begins Thursday, January 12th

- Spanish I & II, 6-9 pm; begins Thursday, January 12th

Registration for all of these classes will begin **Monday, December 12**, at the Disney University in The Center. For more information, please call them at extension 4744.



SPORTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NEEDS PLAYERS

There are still openings available for individual players in our Women's Basketball Leagues. The gals play Thursday evenings at 9 pm at the Pine Hills Boy's Club gym. Call Cast Activities at extension 4254 for details.

SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Sportsman's Association will be holding a meeting for all Disney cast members and friends regarding their 1978 fishing tournament schedule on **Monday, December 12**, at 7 pm at Rossi's Pizza, corner of Oak Ridge Road and South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando. At the meeting, they will welcome your input as they plan next year's events.

All Sportsman's Association campers will be holding their next campout on the weekend of **January 7 & 8** at the Lakewood Campgrounds just west of our Main Entrance on SR-545. On hand will be a catfish catching contest and fish fry at Wall's Fish Camp nearby. All Disney cast members are invited.

There will be a planning meeting at Rossi's on **Wednesday, December 14**, at 6 pm to set up the details.

DIVE CLUB MEETING

The next Dive Club meeting will be at 7:30 pm on **Tuesday, December 13**, at Rossi's Pizza, corner of Oak Ridge Road and South Orange Blossom Trail. The topics of discussion will include an upcoming trip to Crystal River on February 20, and a Cayman Islands dive next June.

At the Dive Club's January 9th meeting, **Gordon Dehler**, President of the Florida Skin Divers Association, will make a special presentation. He will introduce Disney divers to the FSDA, their benefits and programs. All club members and other SCUBA freaks are invited!

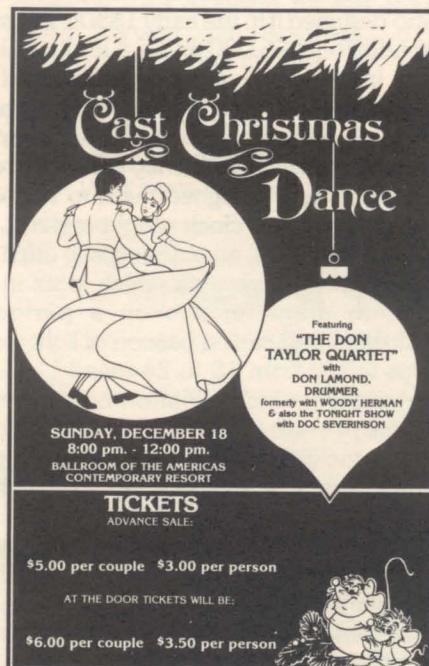
And finally, please note on your calendar that there will not be a Dive Club meeting on Tuesday, December 27th.



The Melting Pot Fondue Restaurants at 500 East Horatio Avenue in Maitland and at 4896 Kirkman Road in the Turkey Lake Shopping Center are offering Disney cast members a **15% discount** on their menu items (special promotions and alcoholic beverages excluded). This discount is good **Sunday through Thursday**, now through the end of February, 1978. This excellent new discount for our fondue lovers here is valid for your entire family and guests eating with you. Present your Disney ID when the bill arrives.

The Salon, located at 2350 West Oak Ridge Road at Texas Avenue, is offering Disney cast members and their families a **20% discount** on all of their services. Present your Disney ID to obtain the discount.

The **Nautilus Conditioning Center** at 5322 Silver Star Road in the Silver Pines Shopping Center, is offering Disney cast members the following Christmas Special . . . Join their Center for one year at the WDW Discount Price of \$160 and receive two months **additional** use free! This is good only through December. Call them at 299-0103 for details.



LITTLE LAKE BRYAN CLOSED HOLIDAYS

Little Lake Bryan, our cast recreation complex, will be closed Christmas and New Year's weekends. The regular lake hours of Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to dusk, will resume on Saturday, January 7.



Piano - Winters Spinit, Walnut Finish with bench. 3 years old, in perfect condition, \$750. Call Gary at 894-8270.

Honeywell Pentax Camera - 35mm, SLR, with 55mm/f2.0 normal lens, 105mm/f2.8 telephoto, 180mm/f3.5 telephoto, and 2X teleconverter. \$175 for package. Call Bob at 351-2988.

Crafts Sale - Macrame, jewelry, candles, soaps, ceramics, wreaths, stockings, Christmas decorations and MUCH MORE . . . Come and shop at 326 Pacheco Court in Ocoee - (Bel Air West) Saturday, December 10, 10 to 6 - VERY REASONABLY PRICED!

Carport Sale - December 16, 17 & 19 - Household Items. Call 299-1042.

DOG - Free to Good Home - AKC registered, Russian Wolf Hound, Call Mary at 846-7237.

Hand Crafted Leather Goods - Handbags, travel bags, etc. Call 857-3242.

Antique Guitar - Bacon Belmont w/dual electric pickups \$150 - home movie automatic film processor - 2/acc. \$200. 857-3242.

Sears Kenmore Portable Dishwasher, Cutting Board top, avocado green, like new. \$150. 851-4023.

Penncrest Sewing Machine, in good condition. Machine does straight stitch, zig zag, blind hem, button holes, sews on buttons and some decorative stitchery. Instruction booklet and attachments included. Call 904-357-2108.

Surfboard - G&S Custom 6 ft. 8 in. \$100. Also 5-drawer dresser - dark wood \$25. Call 851-7864 or 851-2497.

One black vinyl lounge chair - only used for seating for 22 days. \$50 - Call Chuck at 275-0876.

1969 Chevelle - One owner. \$475. Excellent condition. 423-1728.

1973 Datsun 240Z - Excellent cond., \$3,500. Call 824-2000.

1974 Jensen Healey - Call Steve at 644-2725 or 894-9877.

Suzuki TS 185 - Good condition. Less than 2,000 miles, taking highest offer - and 10-speed, good cond. \$50, call 851-6907.

1976 Camaro - AM-FM stereo, 8-track, auto, deluxe interior, sports sus. 4-new radials, low mileage, 855-6367.

1976 Honda GL 1000 - 11,000 miles, crash bar, luggage rack, 2 helmets, \$2,300 - Call 275-9876 after 5 pm.

1971 Cutlass Supreme - Gold with white vinyl top, 2-door, good condition, asking \$1,000, call 851-4023.

Tonneau, Mini Pick-ups, Fits Toyota std. bed, should fit others, new all hardware, black vinyl. AMCO cost \$90, Sell \$40. Call 876-2475.

1972 Gremlin - 6 cyl., 3-speed, 8-track, wheel covers, radio/heater, good rubber, clean \$1,000. 299-7248.

1973 Duster, Good condition, PS, radio, AC, heat, will have new inspection. Call 847-2287.

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